



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2004

**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION**

History Extension

General Instructions

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 2 hours
- Write using black or blue pen

Total marks – 50

Section I Page 2

25 marks

- Attempt Question 1
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section II Page 3

25 marks

- Attempt Question 2
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section I

25 marks

Attempt Question 1

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer the question in a writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- present a detailed, logical and well-structured answer to the question
 - use relevant issues of historiography
 - use relevant sources to support your argument
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Using the Source, answer the question that follows.

Source

History plays a crucial part in our understanding of ourselves, our society and our future and is thus a powerful ideological weapon, constantly being reworked.

But academic historians have become more uncertain about this role. They have shied away from producing a readily identifiable and politically manipulable [adaptable] ‘truth’; they have insisted on the openness of history; they have abdicated their own claim to be upholders of national narratives; they have felt uneasy about the sweeping generalisation and the easy myth-making so sought after by any community. We are left with something of a vacuum where once historians spoke authoritatively. There is still a demand for someone or something to fill the *old* role of history, the metanarrative [national history] of the past from which the nation draws colourful moral lessons. If historians have been unwilling to meet this demand, others have been only too eager. The meaning of the past is everyone’s concern. Inevitably, the nation’s narratives are still being produced but increasingly by the press, by television mini-series, by advertisements, by politicians, by self-appointed polemicists [people who argue for a cause]. Many of them do it very well. But it remains a history that is imposed on us, if not from above then from people with an axe to grind, a point to score, a product to sell.

Memories and Dreams,
R. WHITE AND P. RUSSELL, 1997

Question 1 (25 marks)

With reference to the source material and other sources, evaluate how approaches to history have changed over time.

Section II

25 marks

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer the question in a SEPARATE writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- present a sustained, logical and well-structured response to the question
 - use an appropriate case study
 - present a balanced treatment of the historians and the areas of debate selected for discussion
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Question 2 (25 marks)

‘Historiography examines how history has been written,
often by researching the historian.’

Assess the importance of historians in the debates relating to your chosen case study.

End of paper

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